

John Smith

RELIGIOUS INFORMER, and Free-will-Baptist Register.

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All letters must be directed to the Editor, viz. Ebenezer Chase,
Post Master, Andover, N. H.

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A GENERAL VIEW OF THE FREEWILL-BAPTIST CONNECTION.

The first church gathered of this order was in New-Durham, N. H. in the year 1780, principally by the instrumentality of Elder Benjamin Randall, who then resided in that town. Soon after, several branches were collected, which united with this church, and several preachers of different persuasions were brought to see the beauties of a *free salvation*, and united as fellow laborers with Elder Randall.

December 6th, 1783, the Elders and chosen Brethren from the branches of the church in connection, assembled at Philipsburg, Me. for the purpose of a General Meeting, at which time they agreed to hold a meeting of this kind, four times in each year, hence those meetings were called Quarterly Meetings.

The second q. m. was holden at New-Gloucester, March 6th, 1784. The third in June at New-Durham, and so continued.

As the number of brethren increased, they concluded to appoint other quarterly meetings for the accommodation of the members, so that now they are organized in several parts of the United States. At a q. m. holden at New-Durham, N. H. June 9th, 1792, it was concluded to establish another q. m. to be holden on the 3d Wednesdays in January, May, August, and October; and to be called the New-Durham quarterly meeting.

For the accommodation of the connection, Annual or *Yearly Meetings* have also been appointed for the purpose of receiving reports from the several quarterly meetings which belong to them, and the several yearly meetings corresponding with each other, enables us to hear from the

various parts of the country, and to know the general state of the churches.

The times of first establishing the several yearly and quarterly meetings, I cannot at present ascertain.

The present state of the connection, as far as I have had returns, is as follows : viz.

There are five Yearly Meetings in the connection.* One in New-Hampshire, called the New-Hampshire Yearly Meeting. Two in the State of Maine, one called the Edgecomb, and the other the Gorham Yearly Meeting. One in Vt. called the Vermont Yearly Meeting. One in N. Y. called the Holland Purchase Yearly meeting.

The N. H. Yearly Meeting is holden annually on the 2d Saturday and Sabbath in June.†

Holland Purchase, last Saturday and Sabbath in August.
Edgecomb, the 1st Saturday and Sabbath in September.
Vermont, the 1st Saturday and Sabbath in October.
Gorham, the 1st Saturday and Sabbath in November.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS.

THERE are 16 quarterly meetings in the connection, 153 Ordained Elders, 213 Churches, and 5704 probably 10025‡ members, as they are returned this year.

By the following it may be seen where these meetings and members are situated.

New-Hampshire Yearly Meeting.

There are three quarterly meetings, which belong to this yearly meeting, and are known by the following names.

1st. New-Durham. 2d. Sandwich. 3d. Weare.

The times on which the New-Durham q. m. assemblies, are the 3d Wednesdays and Thursdays of January, May, August, and October.

*The Yearly Meeting in the State of Ohio, mentioned in Br. David Marks' letter, published last month, page 161, have never united with us, though I understand they agree with us in sentiment.

†In the No. for December last year, it was erroneously mentioned, October instead of June.

‡See page 185.

The returns from this quarterly meeting are as follows:

<i>Elders.</i>	<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Members.</i>	<i>Elders.</i>	<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Members.</i>
John Page	Alton	82	William Buzzell	Middleton	30
	Barnsted	80		Meredith 2d	51
	Barrington	35	Jonathan Kenney	New-Durham	82
	Brookfield	18	Thomas Bell	Newcastle	30
Moses Bean	Candia	150		Nottingham	83
David Harriman	do.		S. B. Dyer of Loudon, Pastor.		
Winthrop Young	Canterbury	156	Eben'r Knowlton	Pittsfield	128
Peter Philbrick	Deerfield	60	William Saunders	Strafford 1st	100
Richard Martin	Gilford		Nathaniel Berry* & do. 2d		106
Abel Glidden	Gilmanton	128	Enoch Place†		
	do. 2d. ch.		Enoch Place	do. 3d	96
	Hawke	32	Enoch Place	do. 4th	37
John Blaisdell	Lebanon, Me.	116	N. B. *N. Berry resides in Farmington. †E. Place, in Rochester.		
David Blaisdell					
Roger Copp					

The number of Churches in this Quarterly Meeting is	22
The number of Elders is	18
The number of members last year was	1496
Increase this year, 150. The present number is	1646

ORDINATIONS.

DAVID SWETT of Gorham, Me. was ordained as an Evangelist on the 16th of May, 1822. It was performed at New-Durham, N. H.

WILLIAM SAUNDERS was ordained at Strafford, N. H. June 1st, 1822.

ROGER COPP was ordained at Lebanon, Me. September 25, 1822.

SANDWICH QUARTERLY MEETING

IS holden on the Saturday and Sabbath following the 3d Wednesdays in January, May, August, and October.

The account from this q. m. gives the names and residence of the preachers; also, the number of the churches, but no account is given of the number of members. *R. Mag.*

<i>Elders.</i>	<i>Towns.</i>	<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Elders.</i>	<i>Towns.</i>	<i>Churches.</i>
Daniel Elkins	Adams	1	Josiah Magoon	Newhampton	2
William Cass	Alexandria	1	Simeon Dana		
—Hasseltine	Bartlet	1	Thomas Perkins		
—	Bridgewater	1	—Fisk		
	Burton	1	Joseph Quimby	Sandwich	1
Joshua Quimby	Concord &	1	Dudley Pettingale	do.	
	Bethlehem		Israel Blake	Thorington	1
—	Shelborn &	1		& Elsworth	1
	Duran		David Bean	Tamworth	1
—	Faten	2	Isaac Townsend	Wolfboro'	1

The number of Churches in Sandwich q. m. is
The number of Elders is

15
13

WEARE QUARTERLY MEETING

IS holden on the last Saturday and Sabbath of May, August, and October. The account of this is as follows.

<i>Elders.</i>	<i>Towns.</i>	<i>Monthly meetings.</i>	<i>No. last y'r.</i>	<i>Inc.</i>	<i>No.</i>
Benjamin Tollman	Ashby				
Jonathan Rowe.	Bradford	2d Thursday	14	14	28
Ebenezer Chase	Enfield	1st Saturday	67	5	72
Timothy Morse	Fishersfield	} 2d Wednesday	77		76
William Dodge	Sutton & Goshen				
Solomon Howe	Newport	Thursday before the 1st Sabbath	78	2	80
Elijah Watson	Sutton	1st Tuesday	38	2	40
Joseph Watson*	Warner	This church added this year,			12
H. D. Buzzell	Weare	1st Wednesday	105		104
Dexter Smith	Weathersfield & Windsor, Vt.	3d Saturday	12	39	51
David Cross†	Wilmot	3d Saturday	17	7	24

The number of Churches in Weare q. m. is 11

The number of Ordained Preachers 9

No. of members last year 415. Increase 72. Present number 487

*Unordained.

†Ruling Elder—Now labors in the Gospel.

The whole number of Elders in N. H. Y'r. Meeting is 40
No. of Churches, 48. No. of members, 2133

Note.—The members in Sandwich quarterly meeting are not returned; but should we estimate their numbers, according to the churches in the other q. ms. it would contain 939, which, added to 2133, makes 3072

Holland Purchase Yr. Meeting.

THERE are four Quarterly Meetings in this Yearly Meeting, which are called by the following names :

1st, Benton. 2d, Bethany. 3d, Erie. 4th, Owego.

No returns have been received from Benton q. m. except from the church in Seneca by Elder S. P. Colver, which is as follows. 3 added, present number 16.

Ordained preacher Solomon P. Colver.

Unordained, David Marks, Jr. and John C. Allen.

The number of churches last year was	3
The number of members was	132
The number of Elders was	5

BETHANY QUARTERLY MEETING.

No return. Last year the number of Elders was	9
No. of churches, 14. No. of members,	550

ERIE QUARTERLY MEETING.

No report. Number of Elders last year was	4
No. of Churches, 9. No. of members,	216

OWEGO QUARTERLY MEETING

IS represented as follows.

Burkshire 24. Candor 97. Candor & Owego 34. Choconet 67.
 Genoa & Cipio 19. Virgil 6.
 Churches 6. No. of members last year, 193. Increase 48. No. 241
 There are 4 ordained Elders in this q. m. but their names and places
 of residence are not mentioned.

The number of Elders in Holland Purchase Y. M. is	22
Number of Churches, 36. Number of members,	1139

Edgecomb, & Gorham Y. Ms.

THERE are five quarterly meetings in these two yearly meetings; one called Edgecomb, one Farmington, one Gorham, one Montville, and one Parsonsfield.

[The reason I place these two yearly meetings together is, because I have not had information to which yearly meeting each quarterly meeting belongs.]

The times of holding these meetings, I am unable to give.

The returns from Edgecomb q. m. are as follows.

Elders.	Churches.	Mem.	Elders.	Churches.	Mem.
George Lamb	Brunswick	70	Nath'l Purington	do.	
Stephen Bickford	Boothby		Chr. Tracy	Durham	
William Emerson	do.		T. Cunningham	Edgecomb	
Jonathan Brown	Bowdoinham	38	John Linnon	Georgetown	93
Joseph Robinson	do.		Henry Meder	Gardiner	28
Humph. Purington	Bowdoin			Harpwell	25

<i>Eld.</i>	<i>Ch.</i>	<i>Mem.</i>	<i>Eld.</i>	<i>Ch.</i>	<i>Mem.</i>
Benjamin Thomb	Lewiston		David Webber	Squam Island	24
Tho's M'Kenney	Lincolnvill		Barnabas Hedges	Wiscasset	
John Lamb	do.		Jesse Briggs	do.	
Sam'l Hinkley	Parker's Island		John M. Bailey	Woolwick	131
	Phipsburg	15	Allen Files,	travelling preacher.	

James M'Cordy of Hallowell is an undordained preacher; also, John Hinkley of Georgetown, who received the approbation of the q. m. March 16th, 1822.

The number of Elders in Edgecomb q. m. is	20
Number of churches	16
Number of members in 8 of these churches,	421

FARMINGTON QUARTERLY MEETING.

Copied from the RELIGIOUS MAGAZINE as follows.

Ebenezer Scales	} Wilton	Thomas Dudley	} Montvern
Ebenezer Brown		Isaac Farther	
John Foster	Jay	_____	Malta
Ward Locke	Chesterville	_____	East Pond
Benniah Pratt	} Farmington	Hubbard Chandler	Northhill
Timothy Johnson		Benjamin Tufts	Philips
Samuel Hutchings	New-Portland	_____	Temple
Samuel Robbins	Belgrade	_____	Vienna
William Paine	} Anson	Jesse Briggs	Hallowell
Edward Savage		Moses M'Farland	} Montville
John Trefethern	Cornville	Joseph Gowin	
Asa Burnham	} Adkinson	Joseph Higgins	} Thorndike
Nathaniel Harvey		Samuel Whitney	
_____	Corena,	Josiah Farwell	
Daniel Young	Starks	Ebenezer Tasker	Dixmont & }
Jesse Burnham	Boardedy		Newburgh }
Joseph Osgood	Exeter	_____	Frankfort
Josiah Bartlet	Garland	_____Antony	Prospect
_____	Gilman Pend	_____	Monroe
_____	Kingsfield	Winthrop Frost	Swanville
		_____	Knox

There are two churches in each of the following towns, viz. Wilton,
Starks, Montvern, Montville, and Monroe. Making in all, 34
Number of Ordained Preachers, 29

GORHAM QUARTERLY MEETING.

Zachariah Leach	} Saymon	George Parcher	Saco
Zachariah Jordan		_____	Standish
Clement Phinny	Gorham	_____	Hebron and
Jonathan Clay Jr.	Buxton		Buckfield

<i>Elders.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>	<i>Elders.</i>	<i>Residence.</i>
William Woodsom	Sumner	_____	Bethel and
William Cobb	Otisfield	_____	Gilliad
Nathaniel Sturges	Minot and	_____	Harrison
_____	Danville	James Colley Jr.	Gray and N.
	Windham		Gloucester

The number of Elders in this q. m. is

7

The number of churches is

13

PARSONSFIELD QUARTERLY MEETING.

John Buzzell	Parsonsfeld	Humphry Goodwin	Hollis
Christopher bullock	Do. & Cornish	Mayhew Clarke	Ossipee*
Jeremiah Bullock	Limington	_____	Wakefield*
Jonathan Woodman	Effingham*	James Sawyer	Brownfield
Samuel Burbank	Newfield	Elias Libby,	Limerick
Henry Hobbs }	Waterboro'	_____	Shapleigh
Henry Leach }		James Fly	Hiram
Richard Emery	Alfred Gore		
Joseph Goodwin	Wells		

*New-Hampshire.

There are 13 Elders, and 15 churches in this q. m.

MONTVILLE QUARTERLY MEETING.

<i>Elders.</i>	<i>Montville.</i>	<i>When gathered.</i>	<i>No.</i>
Samuel Whitney	Brooks		11
Abiezer Bridges	{ Hope	April 4th, 1822.	40
	{ Islesborough	April, 1821.	46
	{ Warren	September 1822.	17
Moses M'Farland	Montville		41
John True unordained	do.		
Simon Emery	Monroe		21
Samuel F. Whitten*	Palermo	July 23. 1822.	35

The number of Ordained Preachers in this q. m. is 5

The number of Churches is 7

The number of members is 212

*Resides in Montville, but is pastor of Palermo Church.

EDGECOMB & GORHAM YEARLY MEETINGS.

The whole number of Elders in these two Y. M's. is 66

The whole number of Churches is 85

The number of members from 15 of these Churches, 633

Should we estimate the number in those 70 other churches in like proportion with the 15, they would contain 2954, the which, if added to 633, would make 3587 members, which probably is not far from the number, which compose these two yearly meetings.

RHODE-ISLAND QUARTERLY MEETING.

<i>Churches.</i>	<i>Monthly meeting days.</i>	<i>In.</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Pastors.</i>
Burrilville	Sat. before the 2d Sabbath	27	160	Joseph White
Smithfield	Sat. before the 1st Sabbath	10	132	Joseph White
Pawtucket		2 unknown		Reuben Allen
Gloucester	Sat. before the 2d Sabbath	36	36	Reuben Allen
Taunton	Sat. before the 3d Sabbath	16	16	Reuben Allen

This quarterly meeting is not connected with any yearly meeting at present.

Names of the Elders that belong to the R. I. Q. M. and places of residence.

Joseph White	Gloucester
Reuben Allen	not Stationary
Ray Potter	Pawtucket
Daniel Greene	do.
Daniel Williams	Burrilville

Names of the unordained preachers.

Ahab Reed	Blackstone
Jacob Darling	Burrilville
Smith Fairfield	do.

The number of Ordained Preachers in this q. m. is	5
The number of Unordained do.	3
The number of Churches is	5
Increase since November 1st, 1821,	91
Present number of members, [Nov. 1st, 1822,]	344

Vermont Yearly Meeting.

THERE are three quarterly meetings in this yearly meeting; one called the Strafford, one Wheelock, and the other Huntington quarterly meeting.

The returns from Strafford q. m. is as follows.

<i>Eld.</i>	<i>Ch.</i>	<i>Mem.</i>	<i>Eld.</i>	<i>Ch.</i>	<i>Mem.</i>
————	Brookfield	36	————	Roxbury	19
————	do. east part	10	Aaron Buzzell	Strafford	*97
D. Bachelder	Corinth	96	Nathaniel King	Tunbridge, E.	190
N. Bowles			George Hackett	do.	
Sep. Lathrop	Groton, added	30	Thomas Muxley	do. west	*31
————	Hanover	*31	Wm. Davidson	Vershire	*45
James Morgan	Northfield	30	————	Washington	*35
S. Robinson					
————	Orange	66			
Ziba Pope	Randolph	80			

*Last year. This year not returned.

The number of Ordained Preachers in this q. m. is	11
Number of Churches is	14
Increase of members since November, 1821,	30
Present number of members is	735

The returns from Huntington q. m. is as follows.

Eld.	Ch.	Mem.	Eld.	Ch.	Mem.
Sam'l Webster	Bolton		—	Middlesex	24
Calvin Huntley	Duxbury	41		Richmond	13
Charles Bowles	Huntington	87	J. Wetherbee	Stowe	20
—	Hinesburg	16	B. Maynard	Starksboro'	36
—	Jericho	30	—	Shelburn	36
Ziba Woodworth	Montpelier	27	Samuel Lord	Waterbury	30

The number of Ordained Preachers in this q. m. is	7
Number of Churches	11
Increase of members since November, 1821,	79
Present number of members is	356

WHEELOCK QUARTERLY MEETING.

No report. Number of Elders last year was	7
Number of Churches 14. Number of members	356

The whole number of Ordained preachers in the connection is 158
 The number of Churches, 213. Increase of members this year, 467
 The number of members from 124 Churches, 5704

If the number of members, in the other 39 churches, were estimated in proportion to the 124, (which probably they are,) they would contain 4327 members. and add to these 5704, the whole would be 10025

If any of the foregoing returns are incorrect, we should be glad of information, so that they may be corrected in the next number. Also, we solicit information from those quarterly meetings, which have not been returned.

EDITORIAL.

BELOVED FRIENDS AND BRETHREN,

This number completes the 3d Volume of the Religious Informer. The circulation of the work has exceeded my expectation, and the increase of subscribers this year past, and especially within three months, gives me reason to believe that it is well accepted. Truly it has given me great satisfaction to hear from hundreds and thousands of the dear disciples of Christ, which I should probably never have heard of in time, had it not been for the Informer. When I contemplate meeting this happy company above, where sorrows will all be over, my heart exults with joy. O brethren, let us be faithful unto death, and we shall receive a crown of life.

I have endeavored to avoid controversies with the professed people of God, both in writing and preaching, as well as in private conversation, and the reason I assign, is, that I never saw any advantage in disputing about words to no profit, but it is calculated to divide the flock, and wound the feelings of the tender lambs of Christ.

Having no person to assist me in editing the work, I have labored under a disadvantage, which I might have avoided, if I had counsellors; but I have endeavored to publish what I thought would do good, and omit what I thought would gender strifes. For this reason some communications have not been inserted, which have been sent for publica-

tion. I wish never to digress from what I conceive to be the path of duty for the purpose of gaining the applause, or avoiding the reproach of any.

The mechanical part has not been done so well, as I hope to be able to do in future. I have been under the necessity of using old type for part of the paper, not being able to procure new ones. But by the punctual payment of part of my patrons, I have collected 86 dollars and paid it away for type, and now owe more than 40 more towards it, which I hope those, who are indebted to me, will soon enable me to pay, with nearly 100 more, which I owe the paper maker. I mention these things, that those, who owe for one, two, or three years Informers, may be sensible that I need the pay. I am sorry to burden those, who promptly pay, to read these my complaints.

After I published my number for January this year, the increase of subscribers was such, that I had not sufficient to supply new subscribers with the first number. I therefore conclude not to print the number for January next year, until toward the close of the month, so that all, who wish for the 4th Volume, may have time to send and be supplied with the numbers complete.

I shall consider all, who are subscribers now, to continue so, unless they direct otherwise; except such as have taken three years and have never paid any thing. To these I shall send no more, except I hear from them.

I request all that wish to discontinue, to write me immediately after they receive this paper, and as many as wish to subscribe to forward their names soon, that I may know how to calculate for the next Vol.

I have a large number of Vol. 1st & 2d on hand, which if any person wishes for, by writing to me and enclosing 1 dollar, I will send them, and pay the postage myself. Or any person wishing for the first Vol. only, by enclosing 25 cents, and sending to me, I will send them, and they pay the postage when they arrive. I do not offer them at this price, because I can afford to print them so cheap; but because I have a large number of Vol. 1st on hand, and wish them circulated. Vol. 3d I cannot send.

Before I close these remarks, suffer me to present to you my thanks for the liberal patronage you have bestowed on this work, and may I have a continuance.

Those, who have enriched the pages with their communications, also receive my acknowledgement of gratitude. Let me often hear from you in the same manner.

And while you write, I print, and others read, may we all remember that soon our work on earth will be over. This body, which now stands in the printing office, will soon be mouldering in the clay, and my publications left for after generations to peruse. While I now see the fallen leaves, and the earth confined in icy fetters, my mind feels solemn. How have I spent this year? Have I glorified God in my conduct? Has the *square of virtue* governed all my transactions with mankind? Have I circumscribed my desires and kept my passions within due bounds? Am I prepared to receive the white stone and new name? Shall I see the heavenly incense arising and myself be reckoned one of that most excellent company, who shall see the spiritual temple completed, and shall I behold him who is the first and the last and receive his approbation? If so; I can bid death a welcome, and pass this narrow gate to endless joys. May reflections like these often rest upon our minds, and may we close the year of time in peace and arise to enjoy the new year of everlasting love. E. CHASE.

AN ADDRESS.

to the Ministers of the UNITED
CHURCHES OF CHRIST.

Copied from Eld. John Buzzell's
Religious Magazine.

LOVED BRETHREN IN THE MINISTRY,

IT is with the utmost diffi-
culty in my own abilities; but
with humble and firm reliance, on
the all-sufficient grace of God,
that I attempt to address you at
this time. This number completes
the second volume of the *Religious
Magazine*; which gives you a
brief and comprehensive history
of those flourishing and United
Churches of Christ, of which you
now have the oversight, and many
of which have been gathered, plan-
ted, and watered by your own in-
strumentality, through the efficacy
of the all-atoning blood of the im-
maculate Lamb, and by the power-
ful operations of the divine spirit,
which has so wonderfully attended
your ministry. Permit me, my
brethren, to remark to you, that it
is only forty two years, last June,
since the first little church was
embodied at Newdurham, N. H.
which, by the superabounding
grace of God, has given rise to this
now flourishing connexion. And
thirty-one years last June, since I
conscientiously professed my faith
in Christ, received baptism, and be-
came a visible member of the same
little church. A deed, which I
can truly say, I have never regret-
ted: but am more and more confir-
med in my choice, delighted in the
work and determine to spend and
be spent in the sacred cause.

And notwithstanding I have since
passed through many trying scenes,
by reason of bodily and family af-
flictions; and the opposition I have
met with from the wicked world;
and the shocking trials I have ex-
perienced by reason of some false
brethren; yet, while I review the
past scenes of my life; and consid-

er how many precious souls, I have
seen converted, and translated out
of the kingdom of Satan, and
brought into the kingdom of God's
dear son; and in my meditations,
look East, West, North, and South,
and see how many faithful minis-
ters have been raised up—How
many souls converted—And how
many churches have been planted
and organized by the indefatigable
labors of my brethren in the min-
istry; my soul glows with grati-
tude, and must say, "It is the
Lord's doing, and marvellous in our
eyes." Permit me also to remark,
that notwithstanding, we are all
lovers and encouragers of useful ed-
ucation, we do not pretend to boast,
as some, of having a very learned
ministry. For although we have
had, and still have some, who are
accounted men of learning, which
have been, and still are very use-
ful among us, the greater part of
our preachers have been called,
like the ancient prophets and apos-
tles, from the handles of the plow,
the fishing boat, sail-making, and
other useful avocations. Yet we
have no reason to complain, for
we can say to the glory of God;
that we have generally had our
birth and education in a land of
light and liberty; and the greater
part of us, in the New-England
States; which have ever been dis-
tinguished by their attention to lit-
erature, and where the privileges
are undoubtedly the best, and the
most equal; and where the English
language is taught in our common
schools and academies in as great
perfection, I presume, as in any
part of the globe. And in addition
to this, to our great advantage, the
Holy Bible, which we acknowl-
edge to be our *only rule of faith
and practice*, book of church disci-
pline, and great body of divinity,
is introduced as a common, and one
of the most important school-books.
So that without vanity, it may be

said of our preachers, as was said of Timothy, that from children, they have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make them wise unto salvation, through faith in Christ. Which knowledge they are also able to communicate to others in words easy to be understood.

And in making the above selection, it has pleased God, to choose men of grace and experience, who know how to sympathize with the laboring and heavy laden, and to converse with, pity, and pray for the guilty and condemned sinner; and to rejoice with the new-born soul, when justified by faith in a crucified and risen Saviour; and assist him in singing the new song, which God by emancipating grace has put in his mouth. Men, of good natural abilities, of a sound mind and judgment—Sound in faith—Orthodox—Well skilled in the principles of the doctrine of Christ. Men, who can in the most familiar language, describe the happy estate of our first parents in the garden of Eden—The manner, and baneful effects of their fall—The lost and deplorable condition of all their posterity—And the way of life and salvation by him—The gift and operations of the divine spirit, both before and under the law; and since the commencement of what is emphatically called the gospel day. Men, who know the vain excuses of the sinner; and the lurking places of Satan, by which he takes the advantage of mankind. Men, who know how the sinner lives; and how the saint ought to live; and can rightly divide the word of truth, and are apt to teach, and have gifts of communication, whereby they can give to each their portion of meat in due season. Men, who also in their lives and preaching, endeavor to imitate their glorious master, who came to seek and save that which was lost;

and preached repentance to sinners, and sent his Apostles and ministers to do the same; and to call his hearers that he came not to call the righteous; but sinners to repentance. And the Apostle Paul has testified, that it was faithful saying, and worthy of acceptance. The Apostles not only shewed men their deplorable condition; but they lifted up the remedy upon the pole of the gospel. Hence, the convicted and repenting sooth saying damsel cried after Paul and his companion, exclaiming, "These men are the servants of the most High God, which shew unto us the way of salvation.—It is the duty of ministers, shew the remedy, as well as the malady. A duty which has been too much neglected by the bulk of preachers; but a duty which we hope we shall never dispense with, and which I am confident we never shall, while we remember the wormwood and the gall, and that we ourselves were once laboring and heavy laden sinners; and nature children of wrath even as others; and feel the woe upon us if we preach not the gospel. Human learning is good, and sometimes very useful to a minister of the gospel, especially, if it lead him to the better understanding of the holy scriptures, and to make him the more humble, and shew him his own insufficiency, and his entire dependence on God, and to have high and exalted thoughts of Jesus Christ; and of the way of life and salvation by him; and to believe and obey the gospel, and teach others to do the same. But if his learning only serves to puff him up with pride, and a vain conceit of himself, and of his literary attainments, and to think that he is a great man, and knows more than every body else, because he has been a few months in a college, or a few weeks in a theo-

ical seminary; and at the same time, to have low, mean, undervaluing, and degrading opinions of Jesus Christ of the Holy Spirit, of the Bible, and of the work of reformation, and instead of believing the plain record that God has given of his Son; and practicing the commandments, as they are there recorded; wrest the scripture, twist it, turn it, and blend it with vain philosophy, and the doctrines and traditions of men; to make it prove something which was never intended by the inspired penman; and inconsistent with experience and right reason, and all to work in vain admiration of himself in the proud and ignorant; to make them maintain him in ease and luxuries; in that case, I say, his learning is no real benefit to himself nor others; as it only serves to make blind eyes blinder, and hard hearts harder, and to strengthen the hands of the wicked; either by making God the author of sin, or by promising them life without repentance, or by explaining God's threatnings to the wicked, in such a way, as to make them believe that their punishment for sin, will be very tolerable. O lamentable! "If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." And the fault of the former, shall not extenuate the guilt of the latter.

O my brethren in the ministry. I am weary of withholding. My bowels yearn over the human family. My heart glows with supreme love to the Savior; and with sympathetic pity to the purchase of his blood. Bear with me a moment, while I give vent to my feelings, by renewedly calling your devoted, and united attention to the work of the glorious gospel. Suffer one, who esteems himself less than the least of all saints, to admonish you to a faithful discharge of your duty; and to make full proof of your ministry.

Never was there a time, which call'd louder for the ministers of Christ to exert themselves and for Zion's Watchmen to be WIDE AWAKE, than the present. The unconverted world, are all lying in wickedness; and they must either repent or perish, believe or be damned, be born again, or never see the kingdom of God.

O my brethren in the gospel, take to yourselves renewedly the whole armour of God, wherewith ye may be able to withstand in the evil day; and having done all to stand. "Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace: above all taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit, and watching thereunto, with all perseverance, and supplication for all saints."

O brethren, nothing will dispel darkness, like holding up the, light, or destroy error, like preaching the truth. We must take and wield the sword of the spirit. There is nothing that will destroy the doctrines of men, but the doctrine of Christ and his Apostles. The Bible is like the sword that was placed to keep the way of the tree of life, that turned every way. Or like the rod in the hand of Moses, that ate up all the rods of the magicians. We must rise early, and visit our closets, and read our Bible; and compare scripture with scripture; and search every subject to the foundation; that we may be ready for every good word and work; and not have occasion (as some) to complain that *we are not prepared.*

Again, we must study to shew ourselves approved unto God, workmen that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. There is a portion in God's word for every character, and we must render to all their dues; to Cesar, the things that are Cesar's, and to God the things that are God's. We must give the Father his due; and give him the glory due unto his name, and worship him in the beauty of holiness. And we must give the *Son* his due; and *honor him* as we do the Father; and acknowledge him to be the only begotten Son of God, full of grace and truth; and having all fulness dwelling in him; and having power upon earth to forgive sins, to make men new creatures, and give them eternal life, and make them happy forever. And we must give the *Holy Ghost* his due; and acknowledge him to be the reprover of the world; which reproves men of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment; which recapitiates, and qualifies them to repent, and believe the gospel; and is the principal agent in the great work of their regeneration; and is the sanctifier and comfortor of all God's people.

We must also give sinners their due. And tell them that they have all sinned, and come short of the glory of God; and have rendered themselves odious to his holiness, and obnoxious to his justice; and that they must repent, or perish. Believe or be damned. And that now is the accepted time, and now is the day of salvation. And nothing else will effect them, and break their hearts, and cause them to be sorry and mourn for their sins; we must tell them about the love of God in our redemption; and give them the whole history of Jesus, from the manger to the cross; and let them hear how much he has done and suffered for their sins; and has ascended up on

high, and sent his servants preach to them, and has said: "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

* * * * *

O my brethren, we are not ignorant of Satan's devices. He is plotting in every way to delude and destroy souls. Let us therefore be sober and vigilant. Watch and pray that we enter not into temptation. And my young brethren, in particular, I beseech you, to be very watchful, and very prayerful, and very humble, and keep very near to your blessed Master; and learn of him who is meek and lowly. Be faithful unto death, and Christ will give you a crown of life. And to close, I would just say let us all, both old and young, thank God and take courage. The Lord is on our side. More are they that are for us, than they which are against us. The work of reformation is spreading—The kingdom of Satan is falling—Christ's kingdom is increasing—Zion's light is shining—And the true servants of Christ of all denominations, are marching toward the great centre; and I trust will soon come to see eye to eye.

Let us be careful not only to preach; but practice what we preach—Strive to keep up gospel order in all the churches, over which we have the oversight; and strive by every lawful means, to promote the cause of Christ. The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few. Travel brethren as much as you can. The doors are opening in every direction for us; and the cry is heard, "Come over and help us." God bless you, my dear brethren, and provide for you under all circumstances—Cover your heads in the day of battle—Make you conquerors at the last, and crown you his, eternally in his kingdom.—AMEN.

* Part omitted for want of room.

To CORRESPONDENTS.

LETTERS have been received from the following Correspondents viz.

State of Maine.

Elder Samuel Whitney, Elder S. F. Whitten, Br. Robert Barker.

New-York.

Elder E. E. Dodge, Josiah Fowler, and David Marks, Jr.

Ohio. Charles Rolfe.

Pa. W. Warriner, R. Chandler.

All of these communicate religious intelligence, and some of them are very interesting; but as the No. for Dec. is designed to give the state of the connection and addresses, those will appear hereafter.

DIED.—In Andover, N. H. Nov. 8th, Mrs. Apphia Cilley, wife of Mr. Benjamin Cilley, aged 80. They have lived together 59 years, 30 of which she was a member of the Baptist Church in Salisbury. She was one of the first settlers of the town, and has left 125 Children, Grand-Children, and Great-Grand-Children; 111 of whom are now living. Her remains were followed to the grave by 78 of her relatives as mourners.

On his way home to Enfield, N. H. having just returned from sea, Mr. Aaron Craft, aged 67.

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